

# Metro Codes

E-News For Neighborhoods

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

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### From Illegal boarding House to Neighborhood Jewel

Local Developer transforms an eyesore and nuisance into a show place

Inglewood has another jewel in its crown. The community is already home to many older homes that have been painstakingly restored to their former glory. Nowhere is that more the case than with the home located at 3901 Baxter Avenue.

The Codes department had been locked in a constant battle with the previous owner over the use and condition of the property. The previous owner was operating an illegal boarding house after having rearranged the interior of the home for that purpose, with all of the modifications having been done without the required permits.

The property was on our list for demolition prior to being acquired by Candace Avery. Ms. Avery is a single individual who started renovating historic homes in East Nashville four years ago. She ex-

plained that, "Since then I have restored seven homes and have now also begun to build unique, new construction spec homes. Having lived in many cities known for architecture, from New Orleans to Boston. I have always had an interest in older, historic homes."

I asked her what attracted her to this sort of work, she said, "Jonathan Swift said that "vision is the art of seeing the invisible." For me, there is a thrill in seeing a home in need of restoration and imagining what it can be like after it is restored. Not only does restoring homes fulfill my creative and artistic vision, it also allows me to contribute to the future architectural history of our city. It is very important to preserve these older homes because it helps to revitalize the community as well as retain the character and charm of a neighborhood. Historic homes are a reminder of the past, and it is important to understand and respect their place in the history of architecture."

Her goal in renovating a house, .."is to retain the architectural integrity of the exterior while completely modernizing the interior into an open free-flowing space that fits the lifestyle of today's homeowner. I am committed to providing the best craftsman-

ship and quality every step of the renovation, and in turn creating a home that is both beautiful and fully functional."

When Ms. Avery found the Baxter Avenue property, it was on the road to demolition. She fell in love with the 3,000 square foot 1920's Craftsman style home. Having been abandoned by the previous owner, Ms. Avery had to take what she describes as, "an arduous journey of trying to purchase it, and I went through a six-month process with the bank and court system. "



From dilapidated flop house to a shinning jewel that takes its rightful place in a vibrant, urban neighborhood, this renovation project is a testament to the determination and dedication a developer can bring to a neighborhood.

"The house had been cited for a long list of Codes violations, and I met with Jeff Castleberry and William Penn in the Codes division who fortunately appreciated the historic significance of the house and worked with me, making it possible to buy the house," Candice said.

Ms. Avery's track record warranted our decision to downgrade the demolition to a repair case," Jeff Castleberry, Property Standards Chief said.

We are certainly pleased that another fine home could be saved. This case demonstrates what can happen when a responsible developer works with the Codes department and follows-through with their plan.



3901 Baxter Avenue as it appeared before the extensive renovation project took place. The original tile roof had to be removed, but all of the other architectural elements were painstakingly restored.

### **Basic Fall Maintenance Tips**

Simple steps to keep your home in top condition during the winter months

Now that fall has arrived, it's time to prepare your home for the coming winter months. We've compiled a "to-do" list that should help get your home ready for winter weather:

- Gutters and Downspouts: Check all of your gutters and downspouts to make sure they are properly connected and that they are not clogged with debris. If you don't have leaf screens installed, consider doing so, especially if you have lots of trees nearby. In Metro, gutters are not required, but if they are present, they must be correctly installed and complete.
- Windows and Doors: Check the seal around all windows and doors. Look for cracks in the caulking and for signs of joints coming loose.
- Roof Deck: Check the entire surface of your roof for loose, missing or damaged shingles. These situations allow for water to infiltrate the roof and can cause major problems and damage to the interior. And don't neglect checking the underside of the roof deck in the attic, as small leaks may not be apparent on the outside. Also examine all the flashing, especially that
  - around chimneys. In Metro, you cannot have more than three layers of shingles on a home. And a permit is required if more than 25% of the roof is repaired.
- Heating System: Invest in a home heating system checkup. Better to find potential problems now before you need the heat. And don't forget to change your filter regularly according to the filter manufactures instructions.

Smoke Detectors: Check every smoke and carbon monoxide detector in the home. This should be done on a monthly basis. Also take a look at the fire extinguisher in the

kitchen (every kitchen should have one!) If it is out of date, get a replacement and properly dispose of the old unit.

- Sump Pump: A lot more folks are checking their sump pumps since the flood, but I can't reiterate how important this is. Fall and the start of winter can be wet in Tennessee and you want to keep the basement high and dry. Check the basement for dampness, this could be a sign of a leak or of a clogged drain.
- Fireplaces and Woodstoves: If you have these and use them as a heat source, have them checked and serviced by a professional before their first use each heating season. On old fireplaces that are not being used to heat the home, make sure they are properly sealed to prevent warm air from going up the chimney and out the roof.
- Plumbing and Waterlines: Make sure all exposed water lines in the home are well insulated, especially those in unheated crawl spac-

es and basements. All plumbing fixtures should be checked for leaks.

We have only provided a few tips but you should give you home and yard area a thorough inspection looking for signs of damage. Fall is a good time to fertilize and over-seed your lawn. And try planting bulbs this year to enjoy this Spring!



# Property Standards Division Adds Two New Employees to Administrative Staff

The Department of Codes & Building Safety is proud to announce the addition of two new employees to join the administrative team in the Property Standards Division.

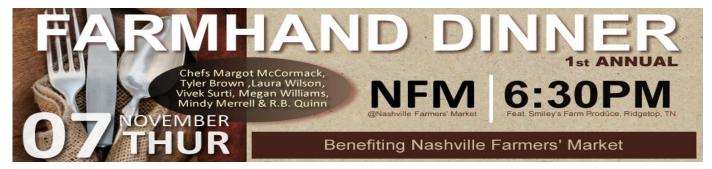
Jennifer Williams, an Office Support Representative, comes to Codes from the Davidson County Clerk's Office. Prior to joining the Codes Dept. on June 10th, 2013 she was a title clerk and assisted with training new employees. She worked for Macy's Dept. Store for 15 years as a cosmetologist. Both positions provided her with valuable administrative and customer service experience that has allowed her to quickly become a productive member of the codes family.

Annette Martin who is also an Office Support Representative, comes to the Codes Department from the Metropolitan Police Department. Before joining Codes, Annette worked in the Criminal Warrants division providing administrative support to police officers and assisting the general public with information requests.

Both ladies work in the Customer Service section within the Property Standards Division. They are primarily responsible for taking in customer requests for service, providing customers with updates on pending enforcement actions and providing administrative support to our inspection staff.

Jennifer is the primary point of contact for our Codes online requests and our Notice program where she processes these requests, making sure they are input into our request system in a timely manner. She also supports the Flex inspection team by generating abate notices, letters and other specialized correspondence.

Annette is assigned to support one of our primary inspection teams, where she generates their abate notices, letters, and all other administrative documents. She generates neighborhood audit reports and enters requests from our customers into our request tracking system as well.



This special evening will be held on **Thursday, November 7th from 6:30-8:30pm**. The ticketed event features innovative and delicious interpretations of a traditional farmhand dinner—a time when farm workers would come together to celebrate a successful day in the fields. This first-time event is brought to you by fifth generation NFM farmer, **Troy Smiley of Smiley's Farm**, along with the culinary talents of seven of Nashville's best local Chefs:

- Margot McCormack Executive Chef of Margot's and Marche
- **Tyler Brown** Farmer, Rancher and Executive Chef of The Hermitage Hotel
- Laura Wilson -- Chef and Director of the NFM's Grow Local Kitchen
- Vivek Surti -- VEA Supper Club Chef, Food Writer & Blogger

- Megan Williams -- Pastry Chef at Etch
- Mindy Merrell & R. B. Quinn -- The "Cheater Chefs", Authors & Foor Writers

The evening begins with a traditional twist on a farmhand "Water Break" with signature cocktails and hors d'oeuvres from 6:30 to7pm. The dinner also includes select wine pairings and time-honored farmhand-style dinner service, music, and more. Proceeds will benefit developments to NFM's ongoing work to support local agriculture and educational programs.

Tickets are \$50/person. Table Host benefit options available. **Purchase your tickets** HERE! Hands On Nashville (HON) is the Farmhand Dinner's ticketing partner. Please note - you will be redirected to the HON website to purchase your tickets.

### **Davidson County Election Commission Moves**

Main Office relocates to Genesco Park

On September 27th, 2013 your Davidson County Election Commission moved to new offices located at 1417 Murfreesboro Pike (Genesco Park).

All voter and candidate services will be available at this new location.
The Davidson County Election Commission will maintain a satellite location in the Metro

Office Building on the second floor.

As of right now, the satellite location will only provide Voter Registration and changes to Voter Records.



Voter identification Requirements

All voters must NOW present a Tennessee ID containing the voter's name

and photograph when voting at the polls, whether voting early or on Election Day.

Click here for More information about the new law





Did you know that choosing energy-efficient products can save families about 30% (\$400 a year) while reducing our emissions of greenhouse gases. Whether you are looking to replace old appliances, remodel, or buy a new house, you can help. ENERGY STAR is the government's backed symbol for energy efficiency. The ENERGY STAR label makes it easy to know which products to buy without sacrificing features, style or comfort that today's consumers expect.

June 12-15, 2014 more than 1,000 arts and community leaders will attend the Americans for the Arts Annual Convention



in Nashville to share innovative ways leaders are using the arts to build communities and strategize how we can better communicate the essential impact that the arts offer to generate understanding and support for years to come.

The convention provides an opportunity to showcase Nashville's diverse, world-class arts and cultural hubs via ARTventures.

ARTventure tours and activities provide special off-site educational tour options for conference attendees. The ARTventures will take place on Saturday, June 14 from noon to 4pm (exact times subject to change). Tours typically have a maximum capacity of 30 people each and include 3-4 stops. Metro Arts will provide the necessary transportation for all ARTventure tours.

For more information, visit www.nashville.gov/Arts-Commission or click on the "Americans for the Arts" logo above.

### 2,500 Nashville Youth Get Free Books

Educational Publisher Rosen Publishing Donates 10,000 Books to Metro

Mayor Karl Dean helped distribute free books to children and teens today at the Metro Parks summer program at Coleman Park Community Center in partnership with educational publisher Rosen Publishing and local nonprofit Book'em. Through Rosen Publishing's donation of 10,000 books, 2,500 children and teens enrolled in summer programs at Metro Parks received free books to take home over the summer.

"We know that reading is not only the key to educational success, but book ownership helps kids discover a love of reading," Mayor Dean said. "I want to thank Rosen Publishing and Book'em for helping make sure more Nashville children have the opportunity to own more books. Whether children check out books from the city library or receive books through generous programs like this one, reading helps them learn about the world and open doors to their future."

Rosen Publishing has made similar donations in other cities as part of its initiative to increase book ownership among children, especially those from low-income communities. Those cities include Charlotte, N.C.; Kansas City, Mo.; St. Louis, Mo.; Hartford, Conn.; Lafayette, La.; and Buffalo, N.Y.

"Rosen believes that instilling a love of reading is one of the single most important factors in guaranteeing all children a chance of success," said Roger Rosen, CEO of the New York City-based publisher. "As the publisher of high interest, curriculum-correlated materials, we hope these books will add to the number of books children own and, in some cases, provide the first book in that child's home collection. We know that Nashville is a city of people who love to read and learn, so we are thrilled to partner with Metro and Book'em on this project."

Children and teens who are enrolled in Metro Parks' free sum-

mer programs will get four books each to take home with them, including titles like: "I Am An Astronaut," "Cooper, Fly Hunter," "Becka Goes to the North Pole," "Circle of Fire," "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," "Call of the Wild," and "Dracula." "Book'em distributes about 60,000 books a year in Davidson County, so a donation of this size is quite significant," said Melissa Spradlin, executive director of Book'em. "Research shows that if children will read just four books before school starts back up, they can prevent learning loss that typically happens during the summer break."

Promoting literacy is a priority to Mayor Dean, whose initiatives include Limitless Libraries, which opens the city's library system to Metro Schools students and school libraries; Share A Book, the city's multi-faceted reading campaign; and Nashville Reads, a Nashville Library program to get the whole city reading the same book at the same time.

### **About Rosen Publishing**

Since 1950, New York City-based Rosen Publishing has served the needs of students in grades Pre-K-12 with high interest, curriculum-correlated materials. Rosen is partnering with communities and non-profits to put more than 250,000 books in the homes and in the hands of children across the country. Rosen is donating over \$5 million in new educational books as part of this national initiative.

#### About Book'em

Founded in Nashville in 1989, Book'em is a nonprofit organization focusing on two core areas: the collection and distribution of books to children and teens in lower-income families who might not otherwise have books of their own; and providing volunteer readers to local preschools and elementary schools.

# Metro Public Health Department Begins Offering Flu Shots

CDC Recommends Flu Shot For Anyone Over 6 Months Old



Metro Public Health Department announced today they have received their full shipment of 2013-2014 seasonal influenza vaccine. Flu shots are now available at all three Health Department locations: Lentz Health Center, 311 23rd Ave. North, East Health Center, 1015 East Trinity Lane, and Woodbine Health

Center, 224 Oriel Avenue. Vaccinations are available Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at each clinic.

The Health Department offers flu shots for a \$20 fee (TennCare and Medicare Part B are accepted). Flu shots will

be offered on a walk-in basis throughout the Fall and Winterno appointment is necessary.

The flu shot offers the best available protection against influenza. The Centers for Disease Control recommends flu shots for anyone 6 months and older. Influenza season typically begins in Nashville in late December or early January.

For more information call the Flu Shot Hotline at (615) 340-5616 and select option 5.



# Mayor Announces New Parks on Both Sides of River

Mayor Karl Dean today announced the completion of the West Riverfront Master Plan and the start of the design phase, which will prioritize constructing a flood wall along a new pedestrian promenade at the edge of First Avenue and repurposing the former Thermal Transfer Plant site as a 12-acre civic park -- including an amphitheater, green space and greenways.

Mayor Dean also announced the city will continue redevelop-

ment on the east bank with construction of a riverfront landing as part of a new 4.5 -acre park in front of LP Field to include new green space, pedestrian and bike paths and attractive, easy access to the river for boaters. The new park and landing will connect with the 6-acre Cumberland Park play area just south of the Shelby Street Pedestrian Bridge.

"By making our riverfront a destination, it creates energy and excitement in the city," Mayor Dean said. "On the east bank, we are adding green space and improving access to the water for people to canoe, kayak and row. On the west side, the Thermal site is the last great

vestige of open space in downtown Nashville. I can't think of a better use for such beautiful green space than an iconic park that all Nashvillians will be proud of and enjoy."

The master plan envisions transforming the west riverfront into a civic park for residents, downtown workers and visitors for events and daily enjoyment. The tree-lined promenade would visually connect the riverfront and provide a shaded path from Korean Veterans Boulevard north to Church Street. Eighteenfoot flood wall markers would line the promenade, providing places for temporary walls to slide in between the markers if the Cumberland were at risk of flooding, a mitigation measure recommended in Metro's Unified Flood Preparedness Plan.

Metro already owns the property involved in the west and east bank redevelopment and has funds in place to move forward.

The West Riverfront Master Plan grew out of the SoBro Master Plan, which recommended making use of the Thermal site as a civic space. A request for proposal for a final design of the first phase of the west bank redevelopment will be issued this week, which will focus on the flood wall promenade and Thermal site.

The Metro Council previously approved approximately \$35 million in three previous capital spending plans for riverfront redevelopment on the west bank. Additionally, MDHA recently transferred about \$7 million in federal flood aid to west bank redevelopment, which will be used to help build the flood wall. Significant portions of construction on the west bank could be completed in 2015.

Redevelopment of the Thermal site will include connectivity to the existing 6.5-acre Riverfront Park. Major components envisioned in the Thermal site include:

The Green: This 1.5 acre green event lawn would be about three-and-a-half times the size of the green at Pub-

lic Square. Conceptually, it could accommodate a soccer field and be a place for picnics and Frisbee games. It is envisioned to be flanked by a series of gardens and an urban dog park.

Bowl: This 3.5 acre expanse of green space would accommodate an outdoor performance venue and be available to residents for daily enjoyment on non-event days.
 The amphitheater is envisioned to have capacity for 6,500, including removable seating for 2,500. Progressive

banking on the slope allows for greater visibility to the stage and the city skyline. It could accommodate performances from the Nashville Symphony and host the existing uses of the site, which have included the city's July 4 celebration, the CMA Music Festival and the Zac Brown Band's Southern Ground Music and Food Festival.

 Greenways: A mile of new greenway weaves in and around the entire site and would extend the Rolling Mill Hill Greenway to the Riverfront Greenway, which already connects all the way to Metro-Center. The new greenways would be the final connector to create a two-mile continuous walking/biking path loop connect-

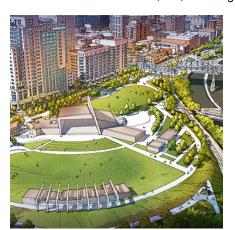
ing downtown to the east bank and back, using the Woodland Street and Shelby Pedestrian Bridge.

Components in the master plan are conceptual and could change during the design phase. Other elements envisioned in the master plan include a new plaza and fountains at the end of Broadway and an attractive, accessible floating dock. Future phases could include a redesign of Riverfront Park, transforming the terraced space into attractive and accessible seating and play areas.

On the east bank, the design phase on riverfront landing has been completed and a request for proposal on construction will be issued shortly. Construction is expected to begin this fall. Metro Council previously approved \$6 million in the FY 2010 capital spending for the project. This investment would be part of approximately \$30 million in east bank redevelopment that includes the Bridge Building and Cumberland Park.

The riverboat landing park will bring to life a section of the riverfront in front of LP Field by constructing a new, flat upper park containing trees, green space, a plaza, moveable chairs and tables and pedestrian and bike pathways that will connect to the Bridge Building and Cumberland Park. It will provide new open space for temporary athletic fields, tailgating, special events, festivals and daily use as a place for recreation.

A lower park will provide a flatter, gentler slope to the river's edge to improve access to the water for boaters. It will include seating areas, new trees, picnic areas, a meadow garden and an uninterrupted view of downtown. A concrete landing mat will accommodate canoes, kayaks and crew teams. There will also be docking space for the General Jackson and other large boats and a floating dock for smaller motorized boats. An attractive plaza will be built beneath Ghost Ballet.



# Your Decorations are Wonderful!

Please consider entering Metro Beautification's "Holiday Lights" contest! It's easy! In November, just complete our simple entry form and YOU could be one of our 2013 winners!



# 2013 ANN CHA'PMAN HOLIDAY LIGHTS ENTRY FORM

| Name  |
|---|
| Address   |
| City/State/Zip  |
| Phone Number (s)  |
| Email   |
| Please share the story or a brief history of your Holiday Lights. Also describe any environmental elements. |
|   |
|   |
|   |

Competition is open to all Davidson County residents. Past district and regional winners are eligible to participate.

All entries must be returned (mail, fax or email) by Wednesday, November 20, 2013 to:

2013 Ann Chapman Holiday Lights
Metro Beautification and Environment Commission
Metro Public Works Department
750 South 5th Street, Nashville, TN 37206
Fax: 615-862-8799

Fax: 615-862-8799

Email: karin.whitehead@nashville.gov



The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Metro Holiday Lights Competition and Tour Sponsored by: Mayor Karl Dean Metro Public Works

Metro Beautification and Environment Commission Nashville Electric Service and News Channel 5 <u>nashville.gov/beautification</u>





### PASS IT ON!

Pass the word about our newsletter! We would be honored if you would share our newsletter with your colleagues and co-workers. If anyone would like to sign up to receive it themselves, they just need to send us their email, and we will be happy to "Pass It On" to them.

## Nashville on the Move November 1, 2013 at 11:00 AM

Join Nashville on the Move! The corner of NFM & Harrison nearest the round-about is an official Nashville On the Move free water station. Join us for walk & lunch!

Held the first Friday of every month, Nashville on the Move is a free lunchtime walking event designed to help employees become more active during their workday. Nashville on the Move also encourages companies to take steps to improve their employees' health by taking the following specific measures:

- Activity breaks throughout the day
- Serving healthy meeting food and snacks
- Making water the primary workplace drink

Nashville on the Move is organized by the YMCA of Middle Tennessee's Pioneering Healthier Communities initiative in partnership with Metro Public Health and area business partners; all working towards the same goal of offering work-site wellness strategies to help encourage more employees to be active during the work day.

#### **How to Participate**

Just come out and walk any portion of a Nashville on the Move walking route. Form an office walking group to join you and walk together, or just plan to meet new walking buddies on the route from other companies.

#### **Indoor Walking Options**

With respect to unpredictable changing weather patterns in the late fall and winter months, we encourage participants to find indoor options when bad weather strikes.

Many companies in the downtown Nashville area have already selected or provided their indoor options to their employees and we encourage you or your company to also take that next step.

If you choose to walk outdoors during the winter months, please remember to bring a water bottle with you. We will not have water stations set up during colder weather months, but encourage you to bring a bottle of water if you feel that would help support your walk. We still encourage you to use the outdoor walking routes to join others helping get Nashville on the move.

### Everyone is welcome

Nashville on the Move is for all fitness levels-start where you are by doing something more today than you were yesterday. Walk just one block, walk five blocks, or walk the entire course. Everyone can do something! Make plans to join us and bring your co-workers.

For more information

Contact: Ted Cornelius at tcornelius@ymcamidtn.org or 615-259-9622.

### Landlord Registration Notices Go Out in Annual Tax bills

All owners of residential rental units are required to register with Metro Codes

A notice to register is being sent to all registered owners of property in Davidson County. The program requires the owners

to submit information about their rental units. The bill requires owners to provide:

- Their full contact information – Name, physical address with contact telephone number (post Office boxes are not acceptable)
- The number of units per property (duplex/triplex, etc.)
- The name and contact information for the management company handling the leasing and maintenance of the units (if applicable)
- Contact information for the new owners if the property has been sold since the last registration.

This information will be maintained in a database and will only be used in the event there is a codes violation at the property which requires correction. Often times the contact information on file with the tax assessors office lists the property owner's address as that of the rental unit. That means any notices we send out may not reach the owner in a timely manner and could

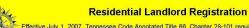
result in the owner being summoned to environmental court.

The state mandated a registration fee of \$10.00. This fee is to be paid by each landlord/residential property owner.

Each landlord or property owner is required to pay a single fee for all rental property owned in the County. An

owner who owns a single duplex or triplex would only have to pay \$10.00 for that property. If more than one property is owned, the fee is still only \$10.00 for that landlord/owner. The fee is paid annually. The registration fee is due by December 1st

Owners of residential rental property should contact the PropertyStandards Office to register at 862-6590. The registration fee should be made out to "The Department of Codes and Building Safety."



Effective July 1, 2007, Tennessee Code Annotated Title 66, Chapter 28-101 requires each landlord of one (1) or more dwelling units is to furnish contact information with the agency or department of local government that is responsible for enforcing building codes in the jurisdiction where the dwelling units are located.

The Department of Codes & Building Safety is the agency responsible for collecting all registration information. This contact information is only used in the event the Codes Department has to contact the owner to correct any Codes violation at their rental property. All landfords should contact the Codes Department as soon as possible to register. Owners can register using this form, or you may use the expanded form that can be found on our web sight at www.nashville.gov/codes. There is a \$10.00 fee required with each registration. Only one fee is required to register all of your residential rental properties.

The Codes Department has set up a web page that gives complete details about this new requirement as well as a link to the registration form. Owners of rental property or their agents should complete the form and mail it with the required \$10.00 registration fee to: Department of Codes & Building Safety Formore information you may also call our office at ATTN: Landlord Registration Program 80.02 nd Avenue. South

800 2nd Avenue, South Nashville, TN 37210

### **Roxy Revival Festival**

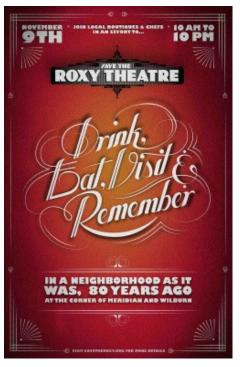
November 9, 2013—827 Meridian Street

The Roxy Revival is a tactical urbanism event organized by volunteers to bring about the revitalization of the Roxy Theater and surrounding commercial district.

Tactical urbanism is an economic redevelopment strategy designed to address neglected or overlooked challenges in inner cities. Typically volunteer-driven, tactical urbanism employs unorthodox and bold techniques designed to attack stubborn public neglect, private disinvestment, and urban blight issues.

Using tactical urbanism approaches, the mission for the Roxy Revival is to demonstrate the community's vision for what the Roxy District in East Nashville could become.

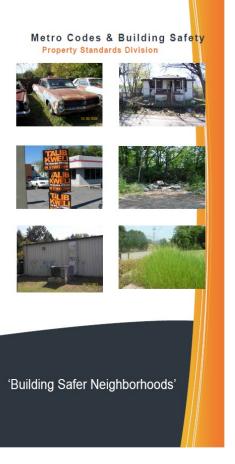
Pop-up retail will replace mature trees growing inside blighted commercial buildings. Live entertainment and film will activate the abandoned Roxy Theater space. Streetscaping elements will



enhance the District's neglected public spaces. For one day on November 9, the Roxy District will be a vibrant entertainment and shopping destination.

The Roxy Revival has three goals:

- Show the possibilities for what the District could become through functional demonstration
- Provide prospective businesses with opportunities for test marketing by registering as a vendor, and offer real-time market research data to businesses by showing that Nashvillians will visit the Roxy District for shopping and entertainment
- Announce to potential developers that the East Nashville community values the Roxy District as a cultural and historical landmark, and desires to see the District preserved and restored.



# **Updated Property Standards Code Brochure Available**

Click on the brochure at left to go directly to our webpage!





Terry Cobb and Bill Penn welcome your feedback on our e-newsletter. Please send your comments to Bill Penn, at bill.penn@nashville.gov
Assistant Director, Property Standards Div , 862-6590